sed to state:

(a) whether NBRI, Lucknow has been engaged in R and D work on dehaydration of flowers and foliage which was also exhibited at Kerala in September, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating commercial implications and relevance of the findings; and

(c) whether similar work is being done in any other CSIR/ICAR laboratories; if so, the manner in which this is being coordinated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dehydrated flowers and foliage form excellent raw-materials for making several saleable items like greeting cards, wall hangings, landscape and floristic arrangements in sealed transparent containers etc. Cottage scale production of these items can come up with institutional support.

(c) CSIR Complex, Palampur has taken up extension of this technical knowhow, as a result of which 150 women entrepreneurs have been trained. The extension work has further facilitated the setting up of 10 units during the last 3 years. No R&D work is being done in this regard by ICAR Institutes/Laboratories.

R and D work on drinking water by Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow

3055. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that R and D work is being carried out on Drinking Water quality at Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow for the past several years;

(b) if so, the salient features of the observations/assessment made at GFRU, Directors Laboratories for Ganga Action Plan and under the Technology Mission;

(c) whether there is a close interaction amongst these units if so, the details of joint meetings held, if any, indicating when this was last held;

(d) whether the Director ITRC is also the Project Coordinator of this Project; and

(e) whether the Director is also personally incharge of any other R and D projects, apart from his duties outside Lucknow, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), as well as other laboratories of the CSIR, have been carrying out drinking water quality studies as a part of the drinking water mission. A salient feature of the observations so far made is that there is no major problem of chemical contamination of water sources studied at GERU, but the data indicate bacteriological contamination in several samples.

(c) Yes, Sir; a number of meetings have been held amongst the groups concerned with the monitoring and coordination of the programme of work. The last meeting in this regard took place on 14.5.1990.

(d) For all multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional studies/programmes undertaken in ITRC including this project, Director, ITRC coordinates the activities for smooth and effective interaction.

(e) Director, ITRC is personally incharge of R&D projects on preventive toxicology, immuno-biology and environmental microbiology.

Pollution of Ganga at Kanpur

3056 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ganga continues to be polluted at